

College Life in Birmingham

A student's guide to UAB (the University of Alabama at Birmingham)

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

UAB sits directly inside Birmingham's Southside/Five Points South neighborhood — making it the most urban, walkable campus experience among Alabama's major universities, with the state's largest medical and research employment base right next door.

Quick Facts

University	UAB — American Athletic Conference, Division I FBS
Setting	Urban campus in Southside/Five Points South, Birmingham
Known for	Medicine, nursing, public health, biomedical research
Nickname / colors	Blazers — green, gold & black

Housing & Cost of Living

Student housing near UAB ranges from about \$500 to \$1,200/month depending on the property. In Five Points specifically, furnished apartments run roughly \$1,019–\$1,600 per bedroom. Southside Station and similar communities sit just 0.2 miles from campus.

- Five Points South — walkable, active street life, highest concentration of student housing
- Southside — adjacent to campus with easy access
- Street lighting and foot traffic in Five Points create a generally welcoming environment at night

Getting Around

The Blazer Express shuttle connects students around campus, and Birmingham's Blue Line DART trolley runs for just a quarter. Combined with Five Points South's walkability, many UAB students get by without a car for day-to-day life, though one adds flexibility for exploring greater Birmingham.

Food & Nightlife

Being embedded in downtown Birmingham means no shortage of options within walking distance. Student favorites include Upside Down Plaza and Nana Funks, plus Iron City Bham for live music and classic American food. The Margaret keeps things lively with bingo, trivia, and karaoke. For food near campus, Einstein Bros., Panera, Full Moon, and Mein Bowl are quick staples, while The Pizitz Food Hall offers real variety in one spot.

Things to Do

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The Alabama Theatre and The Lyric sit across the street from each other downtown, covering both performing arts and classic cinema. The Vulcan statue overlooks the whole city, and the viewing deck is one of the best views in Alabama. Birmingham's nightlife covers real range — dance clubs, live bands, breweries, art shows, symphonies, and festivals throughout the year.

Staying Safe

UAB Police Department maintains a dedicated Housing Precinct that patrols residence halls and parking areas specifically. As with any urban campus, staying aware of your surroundings matters most a few blocks out from the core of Five Points — check current safety resources directly with UAB Police for the latest information.

Questions Students & Parents Ask

Is Birmingham a good place for college students?

Yes — UAB sits directly in the walkable Southside/Five Points South area, with restaurants, transit access, and the city's largest employment base nearby. It's the most genuinely urban option among Alabama's college towns.

Do I need a car at UAB?

Not necessarily — the Blazer Express shuttle, the DART trolley, and Five Points South's walkability cover a lot of daily needs, though a car helps for exploring beyond campus.

Interested in housing near UAB, or curious what Birmingham living looks like long-term? I'm happy to walk you through it.